

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

September 29, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

What an exciting week for Michigan workers, because on Sunday, after nine long years of waiting, Michigan workers are getting a raise!

On Sunday, Michigan's minimum wage increase takes effect – jumping from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.95 per hour – the first of three raises that will take effect over the next two years.

And it's about time.

The clerk at the corner store who depends on the minimum wage to pay the rent deserves a fair day's pay.

And the attendant in the nursing home and the worker at the child care center.

All of the men and women who work hard everyday and struggle to pay the bills and provide for their families on \$5.15 an hour deserve this raise.

Across our state, more than 460,000 workers will benefit from this increase – and more than 40 percent of those workers are the sole bread winners in their families.

In my State of the State Address earlier this year, I said that one way or another, we were going to give Michigan workers a raise this year. And thanks to a tremendous outpouring of public support and the partnership of Michigan's outstanding labor unions I signed the bill into law.

My fight for working men and women in Michigan does not stop here.

I've got the most comprehensive and aggressive economic plan of any governor in the country and I am working everyday to create jobs and opportunity for our citizens. I will not stop until the job is done.

And just like the minimum wage, I'm going to work until every piece of my economic plan is working for Michigan citizens.

Thank you for listening.